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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03
MCT-01 IOE-00 /095 W
----------113967 061454Z /45
P R 060900Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2261
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 5966

PRAGUE FOR DEPUTY ASSTSEC LUERS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLO, UNGA, IS, YO, XF
SUBJ: THE PLO AND S.C. RES. 242 - YUGOSLAV REQUEST FOR
CLARIFICATION

REF: STATE 205678

1. DURING LENGTHY CONVERSATION SEPT. 1 WITH FSFA ASSTSEC (MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS) KOMATINA (REPORTED SEPTELS), DEPUTY ASSTSEC LURES AND AMBASSADOR COVERED POINTS PROVIDED PARA 9/A OF REFTEL AND STRONGLY URGED GOY TO USE WHATEVER CONFIDENTIAL

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INFLUENCE IT HAS WITH PLO IN EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT FORMAL ACCEPTANCE BY LATTER OF S.C. RES. 242 AND ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST. LUERS AND AMBASSADOR STRESSED IMPORTANCE TO PRESERVING MOMENTUM ON MID-EAST OF PLO'S PUBLICLY ACCEPTING S.C. RES. 242, EVEN WERE IT TO EXPRESS RESERVATION ON INADEQUACY OF 242'S REFERENCE TO PALESTINIAN QUESTION. THEY NOTED THAT ANY SUCH

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RESERVATION SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, ALTER RESOLUTION
ITSELF.

2. (NOTE: AS BACKGROUND, FSFA HAD ISSUED FORMAL
STATEMENT AUGUST 30 IN WHICH "YUGOSLAVIA MOST
ENERGETIGALLY CONDEMNED AGGRESSIVE AND
ANNEXATIONIST MEASURES OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT" IN OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES. STATEMENT DESCRIBED MEASURES AS "PART OF THE
CONTINUING ACTIONS OF ISRAEL WHICH REPRESENT A
CONTINUATION OF THE POLICY OF AGGRESSION DIRECTED
TOWARD THE ANNEXATION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES."
IT CALLED UPON NONALIGNED COUNTRIES "CONCRETELY TO
EXAMINE CURRENT SITUATION AND STEPS WHICH OUGHT TO
BE TAKEN IN CONTEXT OF NONALIGNED MOVEMENT AND THE
UN TO STOP THE CURRENT DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT WHICH
THREATENS PEACE IN THIS REGION AND MORE BROADLY IN
THE WORLD.")

3. BEFORE RESPONDING DIRECTLY TO QUESTION OF PLO
ACCEPTANCE OF S.C. RES. 242, KOMATINA DISCUSSED IN
GENERAL TERMS GOY'S VIEW OF RECENT EVENTS IN
MID-EAST AND HOW SITUATION LIKELY TO BE DEALT WITH
IN 32ND UNGA. KOMATINA SAID, INTER
ALIA, THAT
--"ISRAEL IS CONTINUING TO WORSEN THE SITUATION
WITH UNILATERAL MEASURES" IN OCCUPIED
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TERRITORIES; NONALIGNED COUNTRIES ARE CONSULTING
OF "NECESSARY MEASURES" IN LIGHT OF ISRAELI
ACTIONS; GOY, NONETHELESS, EXPECTS "ACTIVITIES"
TOWARD PEACE TO CONTINUE, IF NOT "IN GENEVA",
THEN ELSEWHERE; BUT YUGOSLAVIA, IS "NOW MORE
THAN PESSIMISTIC;" GOY IS AWARE THAT USG HAS
PUBLICLY "DISAGREED" WITH THESE ISRAELI ACTIONS;
"WE HAVE BEEN WITH YOU" IN USG'S "STEP BY STEP"
APPROACH, "NOT NECESSARILY BECAUSE GOY AGREES"
WITH THIS APPROACH BUT BECAUSE USG HAS SHOWN
"GREATER EVENHANDEDNESS";
--GOY IS SUPPORTING EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE TO INSCRIBE
ITEM IN AGENDA OF 32ND UNGA ON LATEST UNILATERAL
ISRAELI MEASURES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES; WHETHER
THIS MOVE WILL HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON CURRENT
DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS "WE CAN'T SAY"; BUT ISRAELI
ACTIONS "MUST BE DEALT WITH;" "ONE WAY OR ANOTHER
THE MIDDLE EAST WILL COME BEFORE THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY."

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BELGRADE 5966

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

4. ON YUGOSLAV-PLO TIES, KOMATINA SAID "WE ARE WORKING CONSTANTLY TO CONVINCE THE PLO" OF THEIR INTEREST IN ACCEPTING CERTAIN "REALITIES IN THE MID-EAST; THE MAIN REALITY IS ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE, NOT ONLY AS A POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC FACTOR BUT AS A MORAL FACTOR." ISRAEL CONSTITUTES "MORAL FACTOR" AS REALIZATION OF ASPIRATIONS OF "JEWISH PEOPLE." GOY HAS URGED PLO TO ENGAGE MORE IN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS (IMPLICITLY, AS OPPOSED TO TERRORIST ACTIONS) AND HAS WELCOMED PLO'S CONTACT WITH VARIOUS ISRAELI ELEMENTS, "NOT ONLY ISRAELI
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COMMUNIST PARTY." PLO'S SOMEWHAT "DISARMING"

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RESPONSE TO GOY, HE SAID, IS THAT "JEWISH PEOPLE"
ALREADY HAVE A STATE, WHILE "THEY (PLO) DO NOT".
AND PLO ARGUMENT THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY "ACCEPTED"
ISRAEL MORE THAN ISRAEL HAS "ACCEPTED" THEM IS
LEGITIMATE, KOMATINA ARGUED. LATEST ISRAELI
ACTIONS HAVE HAD "DISASTROUS" IMPACT ON LPO AND ON
PREVIOUS "DIRECTION OF ACTIVITIES TOWARD EARLY,
TANGIBLE RESULTS."

5. KOMATINA THEN ADDRESSED PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT
OF U.S. PREPAREDNESS TO ESTABLISH OFFICIAL CONTACTS
WITH PLO IF LATTER WERE TO ACCEPT S.C. RES. 242.
HE SAID HE HAD "COMMUNICATION" FROM "GOOD
PALESTINIAN SOURCE" (BUT COULD NOT VOUCH FOR
ACCURACY) THAT PLO HAS "GOTTEN CARTER'S MESSAGE"
BUT THAT PLO IS UNCERTAIN OWING TO VARIATIONS IN
LANGUAGE OF U.S. STATEMENT OF "PREPAREDNESS" AS TO
PRECISELY WHAT THE U.S. IS "OFFERING IN EXCHANGE" FOR
PLO ACCEPTANCE OF S.C. RES. 242. KOMATINA SAID HE
HIMSELF HAD ALREADY HEARD THREE DIFFERENT
INTERPRETATIONS OF U.S. INTENT:
1) THE "SAUDI VERSION", ACCORDING TO WHICH THE
U.S. IS PREPARED TO DO "MORE" THAN SIMPLY
EXTABLISH CONTACTS WITH PLO IN EXCHANGE FOR
ACCEPTANCE OF S.C. RES. 242;
2) AN INTERPRETATION FOLLOWING SECRETARY VANCE'S
TRIP THAT THE U.S. IS IN FACT "WILLING TO GIVE
LESS" THAN (U.S. HAS) STATED PUBLICLY; AND
3) OUTRIGHT DISMISSAL OF U.S. GESTURE AS HAVING
BEEN MADE IN BAD FAITH.
GOY, KOMATINA SAID, WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM USG
PRECISELY WHAT IS BEING "OFFERED IN EXCHANGE" FOR PLO
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ACCEPTANCE OF S.C. RES. 242. HE ADDED THAT PLO
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT HEAD QADDUMI WILL BE IN BELGRADE
FOR TALKS IN MID-SEPTEMBER.

6. ACTION REQUESTED OF DEPARTMENT: RESPONSE
TO QUESTION POSED BY KOMATINA IN PARA 7 AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.
EAGLEBURGER

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